

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

JANUARY 21, 1861.

Read twice, and referred to the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads.

JANUARY 22, 1861.

Reported back without amendment, and its further consideration postponed until Thursday, the 31st instant, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. COLFAX, on leave, introduced the following bill

A BILL

In relation to the postal service.

Whereas in several States of the Union the judges, district attorneys, and marshals, commissioned by the government of the United States for said States, have resigned their offices, and it appears impracticable, in consequence of revolutionary proceedings therein, to fill the vacancies thus created; and whereas the government of the United States is thus without any means of collecting or enforcing in such States the payment of the postal revenues from the officers collecting the same, or of punishing violations of the postal laws committed by robberies of the mails or otherwise, or of enforcing the performance of mail contracts: Therefore—

- 1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
- 2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
- 3 *That in all States, which are or may hereafter be situated*
- 4 *as above, the Postmaster General is hereby directed to dis-*

5 continue the postal service for such period of time as in his
6 judgment the public interests may require, and shall report
7 his action to Congress.

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